

New Methods for Speedy Divot Repair (Bentgrass)



CDGA Turfgrass Program

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Introduction

In golf, certain clubs strike the ball on a downward path. A divot is the resultant injury. Divots are a normal part of the game. Divot repair is used to maintain surface playability given the USGA's "Ball played as it lies." rule.

Why is Divot Repair Important?

1. Divot repair results in a level surface; allows normal ball lie and roll.
2. Unrepaired divots will take weeks, even months, to recover.
3. Divot repair of highly maintained surfaces is good golfer etiquette.

Traditional? Sand



Newer? Compost + Seed



Season effects? Divot recovery is similar if seed is added.

Spring



Compost plus Bent Seed plus Fescue Seed

Summer



Sand plus Bent Seed plus Fescue Seed

Fall



8-1-1 Mix plus Bent Seed plus Fescue Seed

How was the study conducted?

Location: 'Pirahna' creeping bentgrass tee, Bob Berry Sunshine Course

Divot Mixes: 1) Sand, 2) Compost, 3) 8-1-1 Mix

Seed: 'Leeward' Chewings Fescue and 'Pirahna' Creeping Bentgrass

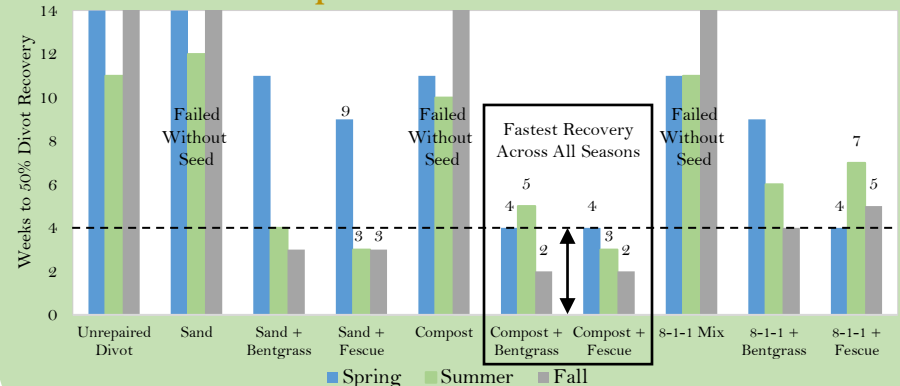
Divot Creation Dates: Spring (Apr 19), Summer (Jun 23), Fall (Sep 7)



























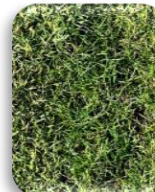

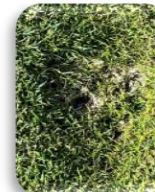

Duration: A total of 14 weeks allowed for recovery in each of 3 seasons

Additional benefits? Compost is rich in P and K nutrients.

Divot Mix	pH	OM Organic Matter (%)	P Phosphorous (ppm)	K Potassium (ppm)	Sand (%)	Silt (%)	Clay (%)
Sand	8.8	0.2	3	26	98	2	0
Compost	8.1	33.8	3048	441	-	-	-
8-1-1 Mix	8.1	0.5	21	177	98	2	0

Fastest? Compost + Seed = 4 or 5 weeks or less



Photos at 14 weeks	Unrepaired	Sand	Sand + Bentgrass Seed	Sand + Fescue Seed	Compost	Compost + Bentgrass Seed	Compost + Fescue Seed	8-1-1 Mix	8-1-1 Mix + Bentgrass Seed	8-1-1 Mix + Fescue Seed
Spring Divots Created Apr 19										
Summer Divots Created Jun 23										
Fall Divots Created Sep 7										

Recommendations – Consider Compost & Use Seed in Divot Mixes

- **Compost + Fescue Seed** was the fastest and most consistent divot mix with divot recovery ≤ 4 weeks.
- **Compost + Bentgrass Seed** was a fast and consistent divot mix with divot recovery ≤ 5 weeks.
- **Sand + Bentgrass Seed** or **Sand + Fescue Seed** were slow in the spring with divot recovery $\leq 9-11$ weeks.
- **8-1-1 Mix + Bent Seed** or **8-1-1 Mix + Fescue Seed** were inconsistent with divot recovery ranging 4-9 weeks.
- **Chewings Fescue Seed** is large and quick to germinate; A non-invasive alternative for creeping bentgrass tees.
- **Chewings fescue** is a nurse grass that does not spread; Reduces risk of contamination into bluegrass roughs.